



Alaska State Legislature

1966

Source:

SJR 93

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JOINT RESOLUTION

Relating to medical and dental services in remote villages of the state.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS there is an urgent need for improved medical and dental services for the residents of the remote villages of the state; and

WHEREAS the present two-year tours of duty of United States Public Health Service doctors serving remote villages appear too short to foster improved medical care; and

WHEREAS only approximately 25 per cent of the number of dentists actually needed serve the villages and only approximately 20 per cent of the dental work required by the population is accomplished; and

WHEREAS the shortage of dentists in remote village areas is particularly acute and has resulted in emphasis on extractions rather than on tooth repair and sustained individual care and has proved needlessly deleterious to the appearance of patients, particularly women patients; and

WHEREAS the acute shortage of dentists results in infrequent

visitations to remote villages and in care for only part of the village population requiring attention;

BE IT RESOLVED that the legislature urgently requests the United States Public Health Service to revise its program of medical and dental services to remote villages of the state to provide longer tours of duty for doctors, increase the number of dentists and doctors serving, and intensify the program of medical and dental care to the residents of those villages.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Stewart L. Udall, Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable William H. Stewart, Surgeon General, United States Public Health Service; the Honorable Carruth J. Wagner, Assistant Surgeon General and Chief, Division of Indian Health, United States Public Health Service; and to the Honorable E. L. Bartlett and the Honorable Ernest Gruening, U. S. Senators, and the Honorable Ralph J. Rivers, U. S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.